

FY2011 Public Safety Report

Local EMA Prepares For Armageddon

Special points of interest:

- Local Responders to receive free training. P3
- Weakley Co. Leading the Region. P2
- Local Law Enforcement face new challenges. P3.
- World's Cheapest Life Insurance. P4.

February 10, 2012—
Armageddon strikes the UTM Campus.

Well, maybe not in the biblical sense of the word, but for the participants of the 2012 Southeast U.S. Journalism Conference, it will seem like the end of the world.

On February 9 –11, over 300 students, faculty and media representatives will take part in a full scale disaster drill. This event will challenge journalism students by allowing them to report

on disaster level events directly from the scene. And all of this will occur in a live environment.

The Weakley County Office of Emergency Management has been working with UTM Staff over the past year setting up this event. While students learn the W's (who, what, when and where) of reporting, local responders will practice how to react to catastrophic events. What will bring the two together? The New Madrid Fault Zone.

Jason Hypes, Deputy Director of EMA, stated: "This event has been designed from the ground up to truly tax local resources. Most importantly, it will give our cadre of responders the opportunity to work through difficult scenarios, in a live environment, together."

Responders will face many challenges, including: Mass casualties, confined space and technical rescue, collapsed structures, communications failures, and how to work in with media outlets.



Recent earthquake events in Haiti, Japan and India have raised local concerns.

Local Emergency Operation Plan Accepted

The Weakley County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) received word in November that the State of Tennessee has approved revisions to the Basic Emergency Operations Plan.

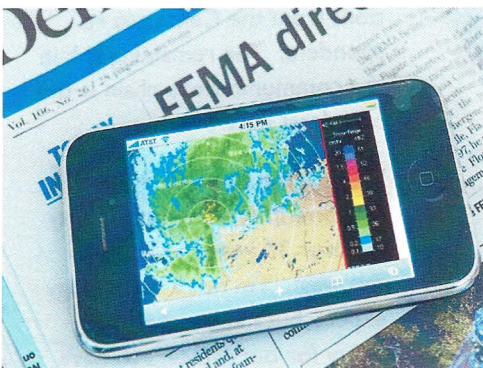
The BEOP details the roles and responsibilities of each County

organization during a major event. Every five years, the plan is carefully examined, corrected and submitted for acceptance. Weakley County's LEPC is tasked with this project, as well as reviewing other key functions of Emergency Planning.

In 2012, the LEPC will work closely with healthcare agencies in Weakley County to better improve collaboration during major events.

If you would like more information, please contact LEPC Secretary:

Christy@wc911.com.



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Northwest TN Interoperability Council releases RFP

The Northwest TN Regional Interoperability Council (NTRIC) has released an RFP for professional consulting services. The Request is for the development of a Regional Tactical Interoperability Plan for Disaster Level Events. NTRIC was formed through a Federal grant awarded to Weakley County in 2011.

The Ice Storm of 2009 taught the region many hard learned lessons. "Major disasters do not see political boundaries. Tornadoes do not stop at the

county line, earthquakes do not see rivers, and ice storms have no concept of state boundaries. Through the NTRIC, we are developing the relationships that will allow us to immediately assess, adapt and assist our operations to effect the most appropriate response." (Jamison Peevyhouse, Director, Weakley County EMA).

Through the development of a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, the Region will establish and exercise multiple

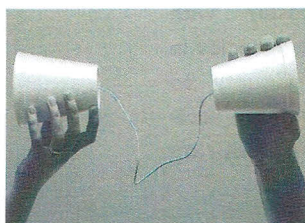
paths of communications between each county. The plan will outline current legacy routes as well as non-terrestrial applications such as satellite based IP.

The Council is comprised of stake holders from Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Henry, Gibson, Lake, Obion and Weakley County, as well as Calloway, Fulton, Graves and Hickman Counties of KY. Meetings are held quarterly on the UTM campus.



Compliance With The FCC Narrowband Mandate

"This was made very clear on December 7, 2011, when local Deputies were in pursuit of a suspect and could not call for backup."



Public Safety agencies in the U.S. have until December 31, 2012, to migrate local frequencies to a more narrow spectrum. Local law enforcement agencies completed this task a year early.

On November 9, the Weakley County Sheriff's Department and the Martin Police Department reprogrammed every repeater, car radio and portable to narrow-band compliance. A few radios had to be replaced in the County due to non-compliance issues.

However, replacing a few devices was not the only issue. Narrowbanding is designed to allow more users on the same frequency band. By decreasing the bandwidth, you may increase the number of users. The unintended consequence? Decreased coverage.

"We have found a significant drop in radio coverage for our Officers. This is a life safety issue, especially during high-risk incidents." **This was made very clear on December 7, 2011, when local Deputies were in pursuit of a suspect and could not call for backup. The next afternoon, multiple Deputies were assisting in the search for two escapees from KY and could not talk back to the Dispatch Center.**

Local agencies are frantically searching for solutions to protect our responders.

The main obstacle to public safety is funding. Recently, Homeland Security funding was cut by 72% for Weakley County. Since the inception of the Homeland Security Grant initiative, over \$300,000 has been expended in Weakley County

to equip the responders. This money has been an effective stop-gap measure, but did adequately fund large projects.

In 2010, the Weakley County 9-1-1 Board invested over \$200,000 upgrading both 9-1-1 Centers in the County. This project mitigated several deficiencies and allowed for real time redundant communications from the Center to responders. The remaining link in the communications chain is the broadcast network.

What is the answer? Mike Wilson, Sheriff of Weakley County for over 30 years, explains it this way: "I'm not a technology expert, but I know that the ability for our Officers to have countywide coverage is paramount. We have to identify the solution, and then make a way to fund it like our lives depended on it... because they do."

Weakley County Prepares For Next-Gen 9-1-1

Tennessee officially broke ground on a next-generation 9-1-1 network with completion slated for 2013. As part of this initiative, the Weakley County 9-1-1 Board has migrated all local 9-1-1 equipment to Next-Generation Compliance.

Next Generation 9-1-1 is defined by the National Emergency Number Association as a system comprised of Emergency Services IP networks (ESInets), with IP-Based software, applications, databases and data management processes that are interconnected to Public Safety Answering Points.

Current 9-1-1 technologies are based upon legacy telephone systems that have not adapted to our increasingly mobile and high-tech society. With NG9-1-1, many of these core issues will be addressed immediately.

Within Weakley County, the first major step toward interconnected 9-1-1 Centers occurred November 3, 2010. On this date, the Weakley County 9-1-1 Center and the Martin Police 9-1-1 Center were linked together allowing live data sharing between both entities. This endeavor has allowed call takers and

dispatchers to handle emergency calls more efficiently and with a higher level of service than previously possible.



WC Fire Chief's Association Accepts Boundary Map

During a public meeting on December 14, 2011, the Weakley County Fire Chiefs accepted revisions to their Emergency Services Zones. These Zones define the response boundaries for each department.

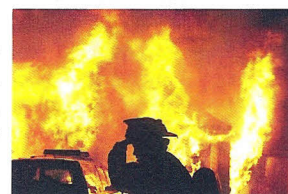
While most areas were unaffected, this marks the first time that boundaries were set using surveyed maps. This allows a more granular definition of response jurisdictions.

This has become increasingly important with the ability to track 9-1-1 calls generated from cellular users.

In addition to the boundaries between respective fire agencies, the 9-1-1 District also set the definitive boundary for 9-1-1 call routing with adjoining jurisdictions. Currently, the State of Tennessee does not possess a seamless surveyed bound-

ary map for all Counties.

Weakley County is not alone in this process. Each County in Tennessee has until June 30, 2012, to submit a seamless Emergency Response Zoning Map to the TN Office of Information Resources.



Weakley County Receives Training Grant



In December of 2011, Weakley County was awarded a Hazardous Materials Exercise and Planning Grant in the amount of \$6,500.

Recently, two new projects in Weakley County have increased the likelihood of a hazardous materials incident. The first was a new annex to the Weakley County Farmer's Coop in Martin. The new addition will house several hundred tons of fertilizer and other combus-

tible materials. Due to the proximity of the Martin Primary and Elementary Schools, local response agencies have updated their response plans.

The second project pertains to the newly revitalized railway system running from Greenfield through Martin. In the near future, train convoys carrying hundreds of railcars full of coal and hazardous materials will move several times a day

through the County.

The Planning Grant will provide for several training classes on Hazardous Materials responses, as well as Level A HazMat entry and control. Classes will be held during the spring and will be open to all response organizations free of charge.

Weakley County Emergency Management

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"When Life Is At It's Worst, We At Our Best..."

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Responders Urge Residents To Purchase Life Insurance?



*Life Insurance AND
Health Insurance for
a one time fee of
\$15.00?*

SIGN ME UP!

Life Insurance: We all need it. But the monthly cost may be more than some families can afford. That leads to the question: "What is the most cost effective life insurance policy for my family?"

The answer is simpler than you think!

What if you were told that your could purchase Life Insurance AND Health Insurance for a one time fee of approximately \$15?

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You wake at 2:31 AM. Your chest is tight and you are having a severe time catching your breath. Sweat is covering your face and sheer panic has taken control of your senses. Your reach for your phone:

"9-1-1, Where is your Emergency?"

Such a simple question. But in the moment of your greatest need, your location is the most important thing in the world.

"12241 Highway 45. I think I am having a heart attack..."

Ambulances are dispatched. First Responders are looking for your house. It's pitch black outside and rain is falling steadily. The two holly bushes you planted last year obscure your driveway.

"Will they find me in time?"

As responders approach, your reflective address marker beams brightly

with each flash of the strobe lights. They see the marker and KNOW they are on scene. No guessing. No door-to-door search. EMTs are walking through the door.

Now, wasn't that \$15 marker worth every penny? It may well save your life . . . Or a life of a loved one.

Contact your local Fire Dept. or the Weakley County Rescue Squad for information. **DO NOT PUT IT OFF.** Your life may depend on it.